STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE B-1

Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000300490018-0

KENTUCKY COURIER-JOURNAL
13 APRIL 1978

Less secrecy by agency is goal of CIA director

By KEN HOSKINS
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The government still is trying to balance the people's right to know what their spy agency is doing against that agency's need for secrecy, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency said yesterday.

And, Stansfield Turner told the Lexington Lions Club, it will be another one or two years "before we can say the proper balance has been found."

"I assure you I am dedicated to keeping our intelligence No. 1 in the world, while doing it in a way that will only strengthen our democratic traditions."

(At a speech later last night at the University of Kentucky, seven or eight Iranian students were arrested, The Associated Press reported. Lexington Metro Police Chief Paul Harrison said the students refused to put down their signs before Turner began speaking. The names of the students, charged with "disrupting a peaceful assembly," were not available.)

Turner, the admiral who took over the CIA in March 1977, told the Lions Club that he plans to continue a more open public policy at a time when he believes Americans are moving from post-Watergate suspicion to a more constructive questioning of the intelligence community.

"There is a great need for secrecy, indeed," he told the predominantly male luncheon crowd, but he added that "the more we can share, the more we can make the American public appreciate what we do for them."

He said the CIA is still reviewing its top secret and confidential files for information that can be declassified and released.

"There is simply too much classified information in our government today," he said, and the overload creates a danger that information that needs to be kept secret will not be treated as such.

Turner said that while individual citizens cannot review what secrets the CIA should keep, other checks have been placed on the agency in the past few years.

He cited the President's Intelligence Oversight Board, the House and Senate committees on intelligence and the president and vice president.

He contended later at a news conference that "it's getting preposterous to think" that a Watergate-type cover-up could be pulled off again because it would take the cooperation of "some 30 members of Congress, the president and the chief of intelligence."

In response to a question, Turner criticized former CIA agents who have published classified information and applauded Attorney General Griffin Bell for prosecuting one of them.

"We hope this will be an example to others that they cannot break a contract (of secrecy) such as this," he said.

Turner said that agents and former agents with complaints about the CIA should take them to the presidential and congressional oversight panels.

He said public disclosures of CIA operations make overseas activity more difficult because the leaks make foreign operatives reluctant to take part.

"If it continues too long," he said, "it could have a serious effect on our ability to do the job the people want."

Turner refused to comment on a published report that the CIA lost a nuclear-powered generator 13 years ago in the Himalayas while trying to set up a tracking station.

The story, published in the magazine Outside, said the generator could leak radiation into India's Ganges River.

Turner denied having any information on another unconfirmed report that Soviet missiles have been reintroduced into Cuba.

In response to a question from a reporter for a Lexington television station Turner also denied the CIA is involved in the search for former Italian Premier Aldo Moro.

Stansfield Turner
'I am dedicated to keeping our intelligence No. 1 in the world'

Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000300490018-0

STAT